WE CLAIM

1. An apparatus for recording and generating images, the apparatus comprising

a printing unit that comprises

a carrier that is dimensioned to approximate a PCMCIA memory card, a media supply being receivable in the carrier;

a page width print head assembly that is mounted in the carrier to print images on the media, the page width print head assembly including at least one print head chip and a suitable printing microprocessor that is configured to control operation of the print head chip;

an ink supply mechanism that is operatively arranged with respect to the print head assembly to supply the print head assembly with ink; and

a media feed mechanism positioned in the carrier to feed media to and from the print head chip; and

an image recordal apparatus that comprises

a housing in which the carrier is received, the housing being dimensioned to define a sleeve for the carrier so that at least half the carrier is received in the housing;

an image sensing device that is positioned on the housing to sense an image to be generated; and

an image sensing microprocessor that is positioned in the housing and is operatively arranged with respect to the image sensing device to control operation of the image sensing device;

wherein

both the printing unit and the image recordal apparatus have complementary releasable data connectors so that the image sensing microprocessor can communicate image data to the printing microprocessor of the printing unit.

2. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, in which the carrier includes an elongate, substantially rectangular support structure, with the page width print head assembly and the ink supply mechanism being mounted on an end portion of the support structure and the media feed mechanism being positioned intermediate the end portion and a remaining portion of the support structure.

3. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, in which the carrier includes a media cartridge that is releasably mounted on said remaining portion of the support structure.

4. An apparatus as claimed in claim 3, in which the media cartridge is configured to hold sheets of media.

5. An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, in which the media feed mechanism is in the form of a roller feed mechanism that is configured to be engageable with a lowermost sheet of media in the cartridge when the cartridge is positioned on the support structure.

6. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, in which the printing unit includes a data bus connected across the complementary data connector of the printing unit, the printing microprocessor, the print head assembly and the media feed mechanism.

7. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, in which the image sensing device is in the form of a CMOS device that defines an active pixel sensor.

8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, in which the image recordal apparatus includes a data bus connected across the image sensing device, the image sensing microprocessor and the complementary data connector of the image recordal apparatus.

9. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, in which the data connectors of the image recordal apparatus and the printing unit are both in the form of PCMCIA-type connectors.